



# Transportation Friday

An electronic newsletter concerning regional transportation issues

Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Volume 21, Number 9

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"Top O the mawnin ta ya"; Happy St. Patrick's Day (please see *Just For Fun*). President Trump says bye-bye to TIGER grants and 20 Federal Programs while the House says raise the gas tax? All in this week's *Legislative Updates*. The Mobile MPO met this week and the Draft Statewide Transportation Plan is available for your review (please see *Mobile MPO Updates*). A special note from Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao in this week's *In The News*.

## Have a great weekend! And check out [ALGO Traffic](#) before you travel!

Anthony Johnson, Monica Williamson, Tom Piper, and Kevin Harrison, PTP

[www.mobilempo.org](http://www.mobilempo.org)  check us out on FACEBOOK

## Mobile MPO Updates

### MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017 10:00 AM, MPO POLICY MEETING

The Mobile MPO Policy Board met on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 10:00 am at the GM&O Building in the Board Room at 110 Beauregard Street. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the modification of the 25 year Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to create a funding program for the Congestion Management Process (CMP). The CMP will be funded through the Mobile MPO and will be for intersection type improvements that aim towards alleviating congestion. The program will be an annual federal funding amount of \$500,000. In order to accommodate this program, a large interchange at Airport Blvd and McGregor Ave was removed from the LRTP. In addition, there was a lengthy discussion concerning the I-10 Mobile River Bridges' Bicycle component, that was part of an update to the MPO concerning the recent BPAC meeting. The MPO also voted to approve the following modifications to the FY 2016-2019 Transportation Improvement Program:

#### TIGER FUNDS

100066564 ( PE ) ONE MOBILE - COMPLETE STREET INITIATIVE TIGER GRANT FOR THE BROAD STREET CORRIDOR; \$1,570,000.00; 4/1/2017

100066565 ( CN ) ONE MOBILE - COMPLETE STREET INITIATIVE TIGER GRANT FOR THE BROAD STREET CORRIDOR; \$21,000,000; 2/15/2019

#### CONGESTION MANAGEMENT PROCESS FUNDS

100066702 (PE) CMP Corridor Government St, from Broad Street to Bankhead Tunnel; FY 2017; \$62,500  
100066703 (CN) CMP Corridor Government St, from Broad Street to Bankhead Tunnel; FY 2017; \$562,500

100066704 (PE) CMP Corridor Dauphin St, from Sage Ave. to Springhill Hospital; FY 2018; \$62,500  
100066705 (CN) CMP Corridor Dauphin St, from Sage Ave. to Springhill Hospital; FY 2018; \$562,500

100066706 (PE) CMP Corridor Airport Blvd. from University Blvd to Hillcrest Rd; FY 2019; \$62,500  
100066707 (CN) CMP Corridor Airport Blvd. from University Blvd to Hillcrest Rd; FY 2019; \$562,500

#### Recent Scheduling Changes This Week for Mobile

Project : 100065845 ( FM )

Federal aid number : NH 0013

County : MOBILE

Project Description : RESURFACING ON SR-13 (US-43) FROM PLATEAU AVENUE TO COLD CREEK BRIDGE

Old Target start date : August 25, 2017

New Target start date : July 28, 2017

#### The Draft Statewide Transportation Plan is available for review

<http://www.dot.state.al.us/tpmpweb/mp/swtp.html>

A long range transportation plan is a tool used by federal, state, and local entities to evaluate transportation assets and to plan for future needs. The Statewide Transportation Plan is a long-range plan that assesses the State's multimodal transportation system and presents plans for improvement and maintenance. The plan will forecast a minimum of 20 years, and will involve engagement with both public and private entities. The plan is designed to meet the goals and other requirements required by federal legislation, including the new FAST Act with its emphasis on performance management.

The Statewide Transportation Plan will include both a document and a travel demand model. The document will provide a means to display the State's current assets and examine where work will be needed in the future. The travel demand model will be used to forecast traffic to help identify future needs. Alabama's transportation infrastructure includes the highway system, transit and rail lines, bicycle and pedestrian operations, freight operations, airports, and river and seaports.

This website will continue to be updated as the development of the Statewide Transportation Plan gets underway. Deliverables will include interim reports, mapping, and other related information. The previous statewide transportation plan is available [here](#). An assessment of the existing transportation system was also performed in 2008 and that document is available [here](#).

Your comments are important to us - please continue to let us know about transportation related concerns that you think will help us to improve the Alabama transportation program. Please send your comments to: [altransplans@dot.state.al.us](mailto:altransplans@dot.state.al.us).

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### **SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

By of July 1, 2017, ALDOT Should have developed the statewide performance measures for safety. The Mobile MPO, and the all MPO's including the Eastern Shore MPO, will have until February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to either adopt ALDOT's methodology for performance measures, or adopt their own. There are five safety performance measures:

- number of fatalities
- rate of fatalities
- number of serious injuries
- rate of serious injuries
- number of non-motorized fatalities and serious injuries combined

The Mobile MPO will have to develop targets for these five performance measures (using ALDOT's methodology or our own) and create an annual *System Performance Report*, and then decide on whether we have met our targets or not. Statewide, if ALDOT does not meet the targets of the performance measures, they will lose the flexibility of their safety funding. At the MPO level, if we do not meet are targets, well, we must try harder.

Performance measures and targets must be specified for Safety (see above), Transit (ALDOT Multi-modal), Freight (ALDOT and MPO) and Highway (ALDOT contracted with Jeff Carroll of South Carolina). The LRTP and the TIP must be modified as it must be explained how each project in both documents are working towards achieving all performance measure targets. . The performance measures used by the Mobile MPO, and the Eastern Shore MPO will be discussed at length in the next several months, and the topic is on the agenda at the Alabama Transportation Planners Association Conference (ATPA) March 23-24 in Florence, AL. Please contact Kevin Harrison if you have any questions pertaining to Performance Measures.

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### **3-C Agreement To Be Updated**

To all members of the Mobile MPO, we have to update our 3-C agreement. This is the agreement between SARPC, ALDOT, the WAVE Transit, the eight Urban Area cities and Mobile County that actually creates the Mobile MPO. In order to execute this agreement, we will need a resolution from Mobile County and each city in the next month or so. If you are a new mayor, your staff is familiar with this as we did this last Spring. Because there is a new federal transportation act "the FAST ACT", the language has changed and we must update the agreement. We sent notifications last week to each MPO member. Please call Kevin if there are any questions.

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## **Projects Within Region Let February 24, 2017** *(The next project letting date is April 7<sup>th</sup>)*

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### **ESCAMBIA COUNTY**

- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-3 (US-31) from the intersection of Florida Highway west of Canoe to MP 55.300 in Flomaton. Length 10.299 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,941,862 to \$2,373,387 .
- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, Bridge Rail Retrofit, and Traffic Stripe on SR-3 (US-31) from the Baldwin County Line to the intersection of Florida Highway west of Canoe. Length 11.000 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$2,254,214 to \$2,755,150 .

### **MOBILE COUNTY**

- For constructing the Planing, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on SR-16 (US-90) from east of the intersection of Ramsey Road in Grand Bay to the west end of the Fowl River Bridge west of Theodore. Length 7.310 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$1,674,778 to \$2,046,951.

- For constructing the Precast Concrete Pavement System on I-165 (Southbound Service Road Left Turn Lanes) just west of the intersection of Bay Bridge Road (SR-16/US-90). Length 0.121 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$673,347 to \$822,980.
- For constructing the Bridge Girder Repair (Collision Damage) on CR-39 (McDonald Road) over I-10. Length 0.340 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$306,703 to \$374,860 .

#### **BALDWIN COUNTY**

- For constructing the Planing, Widening, Resurfacing, and Traffic Stripe on CR-13 from the intersection of CR-48 in Fairhope to the roundabout at CR-30 (Site 1) and from north of the roundabout at CR-64 to the junction of Ottawa Drive in Daphne (Site 2). Length 1.646 mi. The Bracket Estimate on this project is from \$510,400 to \$623,822

[What's Under Construction?](#)

[Project Status](#)

## Legislative Updates

### **Bill to Raise the Gas Tax Introduced in the House**

Last week, Earl Blumenauer (DOR) introduced legislation to increase the federal gas tax. The Raise And Index to Sustainably and Efficiently Invest In Transportation (RAISE IT) Act, H.R. 1458, has twenty two Democratic cosponsors and would index the federal gas and diesel taxes to inflation and phase in a 15cent per gallon increase over three years. It also calls on Congress to replace the gas tax with a better funding source within ten years.

### **Protect Municipal Bonds as Key Tool for Local Infrastructure Investment**

On March 8, 2017, 156 Members of Congress called on the leadership of the House Ways and Means Committee to protect the tax exemption for municipal bonds as the committee considers tax reform and infrastructure finance. Noting that municipal bonds financed nearly twothirds of core infrastructure investments in the U.S., the letter details some of the programs that bonds fund: roads, schools, housing, water system, courthouses, hospitals and clinics, airports, and utilities. Although not on the agenda for tax reform specifically, advocates are concerned that the tax exemption for municipal bonds is a potential target as legislators look for ways to raise revenue.

### **Trump budget proposes 13 percent cut to Transportation Dept** *(including TIGER)*

BY REBECCA SAVRANSKY AND ... - 03/16/17 08:29 AM EDT

The Department of Transportation (DOT) faces a \$2.4 billion cut under President Trump's proposed federal budget blueprint — a surprising figure given Trump's pledges to improve U.S. infrastructure.

The department's funding would be cut by 13 percent, to \$16.2 billion, according to the proposal released early Thursday.

"The Budget request reflects a streamlined DOT that is focused on performing vital Federal safety oversight functions and investing in nationally and regionally significant transportation infrastructure projects," the budget document says.

"The Budget reduces or eliminates programs that are either inefficient, duplicative of other Federal efforts, or that involve activities that are better delivered by States, localities, or the private sector."

The budget limits funding for the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment program, eliminates funding for the Essential Air Service program and ends federal support for long-distance Amtrak trains. The blueprint also eliminates funding for the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program, which was set up by the Obama administration's 2009 economic stimulus package to provide an extra injection of cash for surface transportation projects.

The grants are appropriated by Congress every year but were never authorized. The proposal estimates that scrapping the program would save \$499 million annually. TIGER grants are a popular funding tool among cities and states. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao expressed support for TIGER grants and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act loan program during her confirmation hearing. But the program has drawn the ire of Republicans, who have sought to eliminate or reduce the grants in previous spending bills.

"If [TIGER grants] were to be cut, then it's big time trouble," Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), ranking member on the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, told The Hill last week.

"Department of Transportation TIGER grants are something that are considered essential to rehabbing our infrastructure."

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine), who chairs the Senate Appropriations transportation subcommittee, has promised to protect the grants in any spending bill.

"This so-called 'skinny' budget exposes the big fat lies President Trump has told the American people when it comes to rebuilding our transportation infrastructure," said Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), ranking member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. "I would pronounce it dead on arrival, but my Republican colleagues have beat me to the punch."

Trump vowed as a candidate and after winning the White House to improve the nation's infrastructure, calling for repairing U.S. roads, bridges and airports.

"Crumbling infrastructure will be replaced with new roads, bridges, tunnels, airports and railways gleaming across our beautiful land," Trump said during a joint address to Congress last month.

"To launch our national rebuilding, I will be asking the Congress to approve legislation that produces a \$1 trillion investment in the infrastructure of the United States — financed through both public and private capital — creating millions of new jobs."

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## **20 federal programs that would be eliminated under President Trump's budget**

BY [LEADA GORE](#)  
[lgore@al.com](mailto:lgore@al.com)

President Donald Trump has unveiled his first federal budget outline, slashing a host of agencies while boosting spending on defense and homeland security.

The budget proposes a \$54 billion increase in defense spending, offset in part by a 28 percent reduction in State Department funding. Other departments - including Agriculture, Commerce, Energy, Environmental Protection Agency, Housing and Urban Development and Transportation - would see major reductions.

The budget proposal would eliminate more than 20 existing federal agencies and programs. Some of those are:

1. The African Development Foundation - Supports and invests in African-owned and led enterprises in vulnerable communities on that continent. Most of the support comes via \$250,000 business grants.
2. The Appalachian Regional Commission - Established in 1965, the ARC is an economic development agency for the 13-state Appalachian region, including Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia.
3. The Chemical Safety Board - Washington, D.C. -based agency that investigates industrial chemical accidents.
4. The Corporation for National and Community Service - Directing agency for AmeriCorps, Learn and Serve America, Senior Corps and other national service initiatives. The agency directs volunteer efforts for as many as 5 million people.
5. The Corporation for Public Broadcasting - Non-profit corporation that oversees more than 1,000 broadcast and radio stations, including Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR).
6. The Delta Regional Authority - An economic development agency serving eight states in the Mississippi River Delta Region. States covered by DRA include Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee.
7. The Denali Commission - Economic development agency serving Alaska.
8. The Institute of Museum and Library - Provides grant funding for libraries and museums.
9. The Inter-American Foundation - Economic development agency serving Latin America and the Caribbean.
10. The U.S. Trade and Development Agency - Works to advance U.S. commercial and export opportunities in developing countries.
11. The Legal Services Corporation - Provides legal services to low-income people. Most assistance is done through state grants.
12. The National Endowment for the Arts - Established in 1965, the NEA provides grants in a range of disciplines, including education, dance, design, folk and traditional arts, music, musical theater, opera, theater and visual arts.
13. The National Endowment for the Humanities - Grant funding program for museums, archives, libraries, colleges, universities, public television, and radio stations, and individuals.
14. The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation - Provides training for community development professionals, grants for local programs.
15. The Northern Border Regional Commission - Economic development agency for distressed areas of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.
16. The Overseas Private Investment Corporation - Established in 1971, the agency assists private businesses looking to invest in emerging markets.

17. The United States Institute of Peace - Conducts education, training and research in the promotion of peace initiatives.
18. The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness - Coordinates the federal response to homelessness.
19. The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars - Research and education issue, leading international think-tank.
20. Minority Business Development Agency - Economic development agency promoting minority-owned businesses

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**One of the greatest videos of the year....** *(carry over from last week, but it is so good we are keeping it )*

Yesterday Congressman Bradley Byrne (R-AL) testifies before the House Appropriations Committee Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee in support of the I-10 Bridge project. He makes some extremely valid points concerning money and the I-10 Mobile River Bridge; you will have to watch the video: [HERE](#)



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[50 YEARS OF US TRANSPORTATION CHECK IT OUT!](#)

## Funding Opportunities

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### Department of Agriculture invites applications for Technical Assistance grants for Rural Transportation Systems

The Department of Agriculture invites applications for grants to provide technical assistance for Rural Transportation (RT) systems under the Rural Business Development Grant (RDBG) program for fiscal year 2017.

Completed applications must be received in the USDA Rural Development State Office no later than 4:30 p.m. (local time) on March 31, 2017. For more information, please go to [the application website](#).

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### FHWA Offers New Funding for Innovative Demonstration Projects

New funding is available from the Federal Highway Administration's Accelerated Innovation Deployment Demonstration program to encourage the transportation community to adopt proven innovations. [Funding](#) or the AID Demonstration program, launched in 2014 as part of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, was continued by the 2015 [Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act](#). Since AID Demonstration was introduced, FHWA has provided more than \$43 million for 61 awards.

Under the program, funding of up to \$1 million may be awarded for projects that use proven innovations in any project phase, including planning, financing, operation, structures, materials, pavements, environment and construction. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through Grants.gov, the federal government's website for information on funding opportunities. For more information on the AID Demonstration program, contact [Ewa Flom](#) of the FHWA Center for Accelerating Innovation

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### Industrial Access Road and Bridge

Industrial access funds are intended to provide adequate public access to new or expanding distribution, manufacturing and industrial firms. The industry must be committed to new investment and the creation of new jobs. The new access must be on public right of way for public use (state, city or county) and the project sponsor (city or county) must maintain the completed facility unless the facility consists of turn lanes, crossovers, etc., that are located on state highways. Industrial access funds are limited to construction, construction engineering and inspection costs. The project sponsor is responsible for all preliminary engineering, right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation costs.

Prior to the date the qualifying (new or expanding) project is "placed in service," the sponsoring entity or its local development agency must notify the Alabama Department of Commerce of its intent to claim the incentives under Section

41-9-202.1, Code of Alabama 1975. Effective October 9, 2008, the Industrial Access Road and Bridge Corporation application submittal should include the notification acknowledgment letter from the Secretary of Commerce. For more info, see [HERE](#)

To stay up to date on all of the many grants that are available click [HERE](#) or type [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) in your browser.

## Just For Fun

### Happy St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick was a 5<sup>th</sup> Century "Roman Britain", that was taken at the age of 16 by Irish pirates to be a slave and look after animals. He eventually escaped and became a Catholic Bishop and died on March 17<sup>th</sup>; thus St. Patrick's Day. He used the three leaf clover, or shamrock, to teach the Trinity and abolished all snakes from Ireland. But us [Americans celebrate St. Patrick](#) is some weird ways:

1. Chicago, Illinois - Every year, the Windy City celebrates the day by dyeing the Chicago River green. Coinciding with a parade held on the closest Saturday each year, river dyeing (and observing) starts at 9:00AM. An eco-friendly, vegetable-based solution is infused into the water; much like the holiday spirit, the color lasts for several days.



2. Hot Springs, Arkansas- Where can you go to watch Irish Elvis impersonators, belly dancers, and a musical troupe march down the shortest street in the world? Hot Springs, Arkansas of course. Every St. Patrick's Day, a parade takes over Bridge Street, spreading bright green cheer. Last year it included Dr. Albert Habeeb, the self-proclaimed world's oldest leprechaun (at 95). And this year, Michael and Kevin Bacon will be there too.



3. North Kansas City, Missouri- Snake Saturday is a big deal in North Kansas City. No, it's not a snake petting zoo. But serpentine floats, design competitions, and a charity cook-off make this event a huge draw. And with nearly 100,000 attendees, Snake Saturday has raised over a million dollars for charity in the last three decades.

4. New London, Wisconsin- New London loves this holiday so much so that they change their town's name for the day! Aside from hosting the state's biggest Saint Patty's Day parade (bagpipes and all), a host of leprechauns scout all the city's public signs — even on the highway — and change the name to "New Dublin."

5. O'Neill, Nebraska-O'Neill is not only Nebraska's official "Irish Capital," but it's also home to the world's biggest shamrock! No, it's not a real shamrock, but the gigantic shamrock painted in the town's busiest intersection is still bound to impress. It also serves as the epicenter of the St. Patty's Day festivities, which includes a dramatic reading of Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham.

## In the News

### Corps of Engineers: Study on Mobile channel will weigh environmental concerns

By [Lawrence Specker | \[lspecker@al.com\]\(mailto:lspecker@al.com\)](mailto:Lawrence.Specker@al.com)

Email the author | [Follow on Twitter](#)

on March 16, 2017 at 9:29 PM, updated March 16, 2017 at 9:45 PM

The concerns were close to the surface Thursday evening as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held a public meeting in Daphne on a study that could lead to enlargement of the Mobile Ship Channel.

The worries weren't aired in the style of a town hall meeting in the Bayfront Park pavilion. It wasn't that kind of meeting. Instead it was an open house pitched as "an opportunity for the public to obtain information about the ongoing study of the Mobile Harbor Channel, speak with subject matter experts and ask questions about the project."

It also was a chance for the public to receive repeated assurances: that the outcome of the study wasn't a foregone conclusion, that the process was complex in part because the Corps was trying to be as transparent as possible, that public input was considered not only welcome but essential, that the Corps' final recommendation would carefully consider potential harm to the environment and ecosystems of Mobile Bay.

The process began in 2014, when the Alabama State Port Authority asked the Corps to consider the project. That initiated a four-year, \$7.8 million study, which the Corps' Mobile District Commander, Col. James DeLapp, said should be completed in late 2019.

The motivation to enlarge the channel is straightforward: "The ships are getting bigger," said Port Authority Director Jimmy Lyons, and consequently the port is facing "congestion issues and capacity issues."

Global developments such as improvements to the Panama Canal mean that ever-bigger container ships are plying the seas, bound for Mobile and competing U.S. ports. The biggest ones can't come up the Mobile channel fully loaded, because it's not deep enough, or pass each other on the way in and out, because it's not wide enough.

Improving the channel to better serve those ships wouldn't bring a direct windfall to the port, Lyons said. But it would bolster the area's ability to serve and attract developments such as the new Walmart distribution center being built west of Mobile. Continue [HERE](#)

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## Preparing for the Transportation of Tomorrow

*Posted by Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao*

Today, the President sent his "America First" budget for FY 2018 to Congress. This is a strategic document that looks to the future, and is designed to send a clear message on deficit reduction. For DOT, it addresses the department's discretionary programs, which make up about one-quarter of the Department's total resources. These proposed savings are largely geared towards future program investments, so they will not have an immediate direct impact on our DOT colleagues. This is just the beginning of the budget process, not the end. We will see the more complete picture when OMB releases its final FY 2018 budget in May, and as the President's infrastructure initiative takes shape. In fact, OMB Director Mulvaney noted yesterday that the strategy behind the savings in the DOT budget is to move money out of existing, inefficient programs and hold these funds for more efficient programs that will be included in the infrastructure package under development.

The budget announced today preserves the ongoing safety programs at the heart of our Department's mission. In addition, it reaffirms the President's strong commitment to modernizing our country's outdated infrastructure with a strategic, targeted program of investments that will improve our economy, strengthen competitiveness and create jobs. The program will encompass common-sense regulatory, administrative, organizational and policy changes that will speed project delivery. More budgetary, tax and legislative details will be provided in the coming months.

Today's budget announcement is the start of national dialogue about our country's priorities for the future and how best to manage the tax dollars we are given. I look forward to working with the Department, Congress and the various stakeholders on the opportunities ahead.

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## States Tell 'Slowpoke' Drivers to Get Over — Or Else

March 16, 2017 By Martha T. Moore

Maybe you're a bit of a lead-foot. Maybe you don't like driving behind trucks. Or maybe you just really like the view from the left lane. Well, an increasing number of states have a message for you: Get over. Or pay up.

Oklahoma, Oregon and Virginia are racing to become the latest in a wave of states that have imposed higher fines and more restrictions on driving in the left lane of multilane highways. The crackdown is an attempt to enforce what legislators say drivers should already know: the far left lane of a highway is for passing, and only passing.

Since 2013, at least five other states — Florida, Georgia, Indiana, New Jersey and Tennessee — have also stiffened penalties for "slowpoke" driving or "left-lane camping." While all states require slow vehicles to keep right, they do not all specifically require drivers to get out of the left lane after overtaking another motorist or set penalties for failing to do so.

"Left-lane cruisers, besides being dangerously oblivious to the other drivers around them, are annoying as heck," said Kaye Kory, the Democratic Virginia state delegate who co-sponsored the legislation in her state.

Her bill, written to take effect during summer vacation traffic in July, was passed by the House with a \$250 fine for left-lane motorists driving slower "than the normal speed of traffic" and for drivers staying in the left lane when they are not passing another vehicle. But Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe wanted the fine reduced to \$100, which Kory agreed to.

In Oregon, the bill now making its way through the Legislature would impose a \$250 fine for driving in the left lane except when passing.

"People who hog the left lane lead to road rage and frustration, tailgating, passing on the right," said Senate Majority Leader

GINNY BURDICK, a Democrat who previously championed Oregon's ban on using hand-held cellphones while driving. "All of these are unsafe behaviors."

Slowpoke driving bills are popular with constituents and attract media attention.

"I can't tell you how many people come up to me from all walks of life, including 'gun nuts' who are just totally opposed to everything I'm doing on guns and say, 'I hate everything you're doing on guns but I love your left-lane bill,'" Burdick said.

But the measures aren't always popular enough to become law. Since 2015, left-lane bills have been proposed in Mississippi, North Carolina and Ohio without winning approval. Questions remain about whether they really work to improve highway safety. Continue [HERE](#)

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### Save the Date!

Crepe Myrtle Trail Ride 2017  
April 1 - Arlington Park  
[www.crepemyrtleride.com](http://www.crepemyrtleride.com)

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## Transportation Research

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### Fostering Innovation in Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Pooled Fund Study

Call for participants ends May 31

Transportation agencies across the country are seeking ways to improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety and mobility. However, existing research programs that advance innovation, such as the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, cannot meet the growing needs for pedestrian and bicyclist research. This Transportation Pooled Fund (TPF) study will supplement existing research venues and fill an important missing gap by emphasizing short turnaround practical research on issues immediately relevant to practitioners. It will address national goals and priorities identified through input from local, state, and national partners in FHWA's Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation. The pooled fund will provide a mechanism for federal, state, regional, and local transportation agencies; academic institutions; foundations; private firms; and other stakeholders to collaboratively fund and implement pedestrian and bicycle research.

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### Regional Models of Cooperation Handbook

FHWA recently released their [Regional Models of Cooperation Handbook](#). The Regional Models of Cooperation program is facilitated through FHWA and FTA and is a part of the Every Day Counts 3 Initiative. The handbook includes numerous case studies and examples of regional and statewide collaboration and partnership where agencies are working together to save money, be more efficient, and have a greater impact than they could individually.

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### January 2017 Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI)

**Press Release Number:**

BTS 12-17

**Date:**

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

**Media Contact:**

Dave Smallen, 202-366-5568

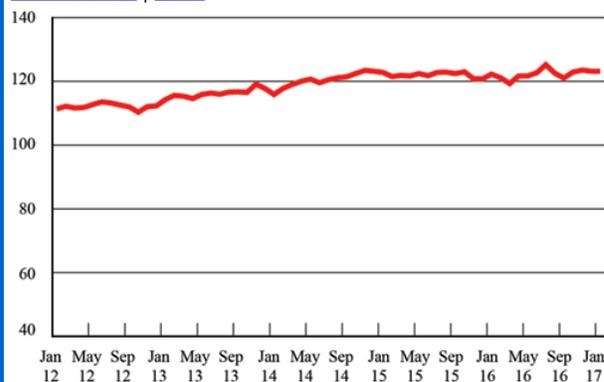
[PDF](#) | [Excel](#)

The Freight Transportation Services Index (TSI), which is based on the amount of freight carried by the for-hire transportation industry, remained unchanged in January from its December level, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS). The January 2017 index level (123.2) was 30.1 percent above the April 2009 low during the most recent recession (Tables 1, 2, and 2A).

**Freight Transportation Services Index, January 2012 - January 2017**

(Seasonally Adjusted, Monthly Average of 2000 = 100)

[Table Version](#) | [Excel](#)



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### New ADA Sidewalk and Curb Ramp Compliance App

Download it Today



<http://www.vueworks.com/sidewalks-and-curb-ramps-application/>

- Simple to Use
- Download from Apple Store or Google Play
- Collect information at your pace
- Gathers ADA Compliance inventory and condition information
- Location is automatically collected in GIS

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### Transportation Dictionary

The USDOT released a searchable online dictionary that includes over 9,000 transportation terms and acronyms. The terms were collected from a variety of public and private transportation publications and databases. This dictionary presents over 9,000 terms and acronyms related to transportation. The terms and acronyms were obtained from various transportation publications and databases which exist within the federal government, private organizations, Canada and Mexico.

#### Search Tips

- Sources are listed in parenthesis after the definition.
- None of the searches are case sensitive. Searching for PEDESTRIAN will produce the same results as searching for pedestrian.
- The Dictionary searches for the word, phrase or acronym as it is entered and returns all records that match or contain that word, phrase or acronym. For example, searching for pedestrian will return records for pedestrian and pedestrian walkway.

Click [HERE](#) for the search engine.